

Town of Darien
Health Department
Press Release

This press release from the Darien Health Dept. is to inform the residents of Darien as well as contractors about the potential health and environmental risks associated with the removal of lead based paint from homes. Please be advised that all contractors are required to obtain a sanding permit from the Health Department and, per EPA regulations, to distribute lead hazard information (available at the Darien Health Dept.) to owners and occupants of most housing/structures built prior to 1978, before commencing renovation activity.

Especially of concern are homes and neighborhoods with children under 6 years of age who are most susceptible to the dangers of lead exposure.

The Darien Health Dept. is requesting that prior to the renovation/maintenance of older homes involving power sanding, sandblasting or power washing, that homeowners/contractors contact the Health Dept. at 203-656-7320 to obtain information about the use of lead safe techniques.

For information regarding the University of Connecticut's lead safe training program for contractors, painters, and property owners, please call 860-570-9072.

Remember These Basic Principles

1. **ASSUME: Paint in Homes Built Before 1978 Contains Lead** (Unless a lead-based paint inspection shows it doesn't.) **Exposing Anyone to Dust, Especially Children, is Bad**
2. **CHECK: Federal, State, and Local Regulations**
 - OSHA has rules for worker safety
 - EPA and your local community have rules for waste disposal
3. **AVOID: Creating Dust**
 - Use low dust work practices (for example, mist surfaces with water before sanding or scraping)
4. **PROTECT: Occupants, Particularly Children**
 - Keep them away from work area
 - Clean up work site before they return
5. **CLEAN UP: After All Work**
 - Clean up is particularly important if painted surfaces were broken or wall cavities were opened
 - Take dust wipe samples to make sure that it is safe for children to return
6. **MAINTAIN: A Dry Building**
 - Moisture problems can cause paint failure, building deterioration, and encourage pests

All Painted Surfaces

- Well-maintained paint generally does not pose a health risk

Clean and Cleanable Surfaces

- Keep floors and painted surfaces smooth
- Damp mop them often
- Clean rugs and carpet well